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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/838,035	04/19/2001	Antonio Morlacchi	6023-133US(MI/X13646)	6525

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EXAMINER

HAMLIN, DERRICK G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/838,035

Applicant(s)

MORLACCHI, ANTONIO

Examiner

Derrick G. Hamlin

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

The objection to claims 3-14 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend on multiple dependent claims is withdrawn in light of the preliminary amendment which had not been entered before the first action was mailed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Driskill et al. (4925732).

Driskill discloses a laminate is provided that comprises flexible moisture permeable adherends and a moisture permeable adhesive. The laminate has good moisture transmitting characteristics with good bond strength. The laminate

Art Unit: 1751

finds utility in functional applications such as shoes. A particular group of laminates are provided that provide for both waterproof characteristics and breathability. (abstract) Example 4 teaches a cowhide leather and a waterproof material made by adhering a membrane to a knit fabric. Adhesive D was applied to a 7.5 cm square of each material in a dotted pattern. The adhesive was allowed to dry for 2 hours, then the two coated faces were placed together. Heat was applied with a household iron to the fabric side of the laminate for about 20 seconds. (col. 12, lines 54-66). The thickness of the layer is 25 microns (col. 4, line 25). The invention employs a one-component, hydrophilic, block polyurethane (col. 3, lines 59-61).

With respect to claim 12, a shoe would inherently be made with two or more pieces of leather sewed together.

The reference is anticipatory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 9 and 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Driskill et al. (4925732) as applied to claims 1-3, 5-8 and 11-14 above.

Art Unit: 1751

Driskill discloses the claimed invention except for the distance between the glue dots. The leather use or application would influence the amount of glue and the distance between the dots. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to change the distance between glue dots, which would correspond to the amount, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CPA 1980).

In view of the forgoing, the above claims have failed to be patentably distinguishable over prior art.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Krishnan (US 5283112) disclosed herein are polyurethane compositions specifically adapted to produce non-porous membrane exhibiting waterproof and water vapor transmissible characteristics (abstract). 20 Many porous articles, such as woven and non-woven fabrics, natural and synthetic artificial leather. The fabric laminate of claim 1 wherein said membrane is adhesively bonded to at least one of said fabric layers.

GB 2 209 705 discloses a chamois sandwich comprising a pair of thin outer water permeable layers, at least one is real chamois skin, laminated together with a thin soft flexible layer between them, wherein at least part of the

Art Unit: 1751

chamois skin layer is compressed and adhesively bonded to the foam layer at spaced points forming a waffle-like structure.

The remaining references listed on form(s) 892 and 1449 have been reviewed by the examiner and are considered to be cumulative to or less material than the prior art references relied upon in the rejection above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Derrick G. Hamlin whose telephone number is (703) 305-0590. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternating Fridays from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

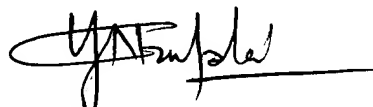
If reasonable attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Yogendra Gupta, can be reached on (703) 308-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Derrick G. Hamlin

12/17/03

DH



YOGENDRA N. GUPTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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